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The transition from partnership in its various forms to the corporations of to-day may well be studied in the problems of the commercial arithmetic, and there may also be followed the genesis, partial decay, and present status of equation of payments. Profit and loss, to-day the most vital topic of business arithmetic, has a long and varied history, and the economics of the problem may be studied in the older books, free from all the modern features of overhead, cost of doing business, and profit on the selling price.

Not only to the economist and the student of commerce is the field a rich one, but it is well worth the study of anyone who may be possessed of doubt as to the relation of mathematics to the daily life of the race. Not only can the history of the problem easily be made the history of commerce and economics, but the history of mathematics can easily be made the history of civilization.

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### ORGANIZATION OF THE MARYLAND-VIRGINIA-DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SECTION OF THE ASSOCIATION.

As a result of preliminary correspondence, a group of Maryland mathematicians held a meeting in New York at the time of the December meeting of the Association and presented a petition to the council for authority to organize a section of the Association in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Professor Abraham Cohen was designated as temporary secretary.

The authority being granted by the council, arrangements were completed for a meeting to organize the Section at Johns Hopkins University on March 3, 1917. Among the 38 persons present at this meeting were the following members of the Association:

- O. S. Adams, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D. C.
- Clara L. Bacon, Goucher College, Baltimore, Md.
- Harry Bateman, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.
- Lillian O. Brown, Hood College, Frederick, Md.
- J. A. Bullard, U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
- A. B. Coble, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.
- A. Cohen, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.
- H. A. Converse, Baltimore Polytechnic Inst., Baltimore, Md.
- J. B. Eppes, U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
- Angelo Hall, U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
- W. M. Hamilton, U. S. Nautical Almanac Office, Washington, D. C.
- R. A. Harris, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D. C.
- A. W. Hobbs, Baltimore, Md.
- L. S. Hulburt, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.
- W. D. Lambert, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D. C.
- A. E. Landry, Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C.
- Frank Morley, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.
- S. F. Norris, Baltimore City College, Baltimore, Md.

R. E. Root, U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.

W. F. Shenton, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

E. R. Smith, The Park School, Baltimore, Md.

J. J. Tanzola, U. S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.

H. R. Tolley, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

After the adoption of a constitution for the Section, the following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Professor ABRAHAM COHEN, of Johns Hopkins University; Secretary-Treasurer, Professor RALPH E. ROOT, U. S. Naval Academy; Member of the Executive Committee, Mr. WALTER D. LAMBERT, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

The program consisted of two papers, each followed by a discussion. The first paper, by Professor R. E. Root, was on "The aims and possibilities of this local section," and the discussion was led by Professor A. E. Landry, Mr. W. D. Lambert and Professor Frank Morley. Mr. E. R. Smith and Professor A. B. Coble also took part in the discussion. The second paper, by Professor L. S. Hulburt, was on "A college or university course for teachers of secondary mathematics," and the discussion was led by Professor Clara L. Bacon and Mr. E. R. Smith.

After the program there was a social hour at the Hopkins Club, where the members of the section were the guests of the University at a luncheon.

The constitution of the section provides for holding at least two meetings each year, one in the spring and another in the fall, and the executive committee may call additional meetings when desirable.

RALPH E. ROOT,  
*Secretary.*

## SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE OHIO SECTION.

The second annual meeting of the Ohio Section of the Mathematical Association of America was held at the Ohio State University, Columbus, on April 6, 1917, in connection with the meetings of the Ohio College Association, The Ohio Academy of Science, The Ohio Society of College Teachers of Education, and The Association of Ohio Teachers of Mathematics and Science. Chairman Focke occupied the chair, being relieved by Professor R. B. Allen for an interval.

The following thirty-four persons were registered, all but the last six being members of the Association:

R. B. Allen, Kenyon College; F. Anderegg, Oberlin College; W. E. Anderson, Wittenberg College; G. N. Armstrong, Ohio Wesleyan University; C. L. Arnold, Ohio State University; C. B. Austin, Ohio Wesleyan University; Grace M. Bareis, Ohio State University; Mrs. W. E. Beckwith, Western Reserve University; R. D. Bohannon, Ohio State University; Louis Brand, University of Cincinnati; A. G. Caris, Defiance College; O. L. Dustheimer, Baldwin-Wallace College; Theo. M. Focke, Case School of Applied Science; Harriet E. Glazier, Western College for Women; M. E. Graber, Heidelberg University; Harris